34. Additional Anchalmen.

Mr. V. Achyuta Menon.—Sir, the resolution runs thus:—

"This Council recommends to the Government the entertainment of additional anchalmen so as to effect delivery of articles addressed to persons residing in a village at least within two days of the arrival of the said articles at the anchal office serving the said village."

Most of the Hon'ble Members live in towns or places sufficiently near Anchal Offices, and cannot therefore realise the difficulties which people living in villages are put to. Yesterday or day before yesterday the Member for Chittur was referring to the delay in the matter of delivery of letters posted at Chittur and received at Trichur. I shall quote one instance. There is a branch Anchal Office at Pazhanji which occupies the north-west corner of the State. There is only a branch Anchal-master there with one Anchalman. It has to serve 26 desoms. The Anchalman there, goes about serving 5 desoms a day. Such being the case, he will be able to serve all the desoms within a period of 5 days. Generally therefore an urgent communication regarding the posting of civil or criminal cases, solemnization of marriages, or the serious illness of some near and dear relations may not reach the addressee in time. A letter regarding the serious illness of a near relation is posted at Amballur or sent from Kaippattur which occupies the south-west corner of the State and is addressed to a villager say, in Perimpilavu is served by the Pazhanji Anchal Office. Suppose the letter reaches the Pazanji Anchal Office just the day after the Anchalman's beat to that village. Naturally it will be delivered to the addressee only after 5 or 6 days. Sir, urgent communications regarding serious illness of near and dear relations etc., are expected to reach the addressees within 2 days or on the day of posting itself. They will be very glad if such letters could be taken even by some air mail. At present such communications reach the addressees very late. So, I urge upon the Government the necessity for entertaining additional Anchalmen wherever necessary. The resolution is "that this Council recommends to the Government the entertainment of additional anchalmen so as to effect delivery of articles addressed to persons residing in a village at least within two days of the arrival of the said articles at the Anchal Office serving the said village". If the delivery of the article takes a long time, the object with which the Anchal Department is established defeats itself. I therefore commend the resolution for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. P.Krishna Menon.—I beg to second that resolution. Now the resolution as it stands, refers only to the entertainment

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of additional men in the department. I support it on a broader basis. I say that additional Anchal Offices may be opened wherever there is a requisition to open them. Without taking much of the time of the House I shall give a concrete example which will testify to the inconveniences that are now felt by the inefficient workingof the department as a whole. I belong to a village which could be reached within three hours from Ernakulam. But I am sure I will be supported by the Hon'ble mover of the resolution when I say that a letter put in the Anchal Office in Ernakulam will reach my village or the addressee in the village only on the 7th day. Therefore, it is due to the absence of Anchal Offices that all these difficulties are met with. The improvement of the system as a whole and the entertainment of more men, as the Hon'ble Mover wants in the new offices, will do away with the cry now heard. Now the House is aware of the rules which govern the opening of new Anchal Offices in the State. Wherever there is a requisition to open new Anchal Offices the thing that is demanded by the Government, by way of a condition precedent in the way of opening an Anchal Office, is that persons of the locality should give a guarantee towards the cost of the maintenance of the Anchal Office that will be opened by the Government if they so desire.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—For what period?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—No period. They have to give a guarantee to make up the deficit. They will be called "Experimental Anchal Offices". If a guarantee is given to make up the deficit in the working they will be generally opened if the Government so desires.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—How long is the guarantee to last?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—No limit. The experiment is to last so long as there is no move on the part of the guarantors to remove themselves out of the liability. The Government will continue to work it upon the guarantee system only. Therefore what I respectfully submit is that irrespective of the fulfilment of the conditions with regard to the necessity of the thing from the point of view of the Government, if there is a general requisition to open an Anchal Office it should be opened, if there is the usual and the necessary guarantee forthcoming.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I just want to point out the fallacy in the statement. Generally an experimental Anchal Office is meant only for a few months. During that time the conditions will be fulfilled by the persons of the locality by posting all the letters in that Anchal Office, and if after the period it is found that it should be removed there will be a hue and cry. Therefore

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you cannot start Anchal Offices indiscriminately. If people living in the Cochin State—a small State—find it takes 7 or more days for the letter to reach them, it must be that they have got villages which are very curious and that they are in a very sorrowful state of affairs indeed !

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—In further supporting the resolution I beg to bring to the notice of this House the fact that the resolution, coming as it does from the Hon'ble Member for Irinjalakkuda, must commend the same to the Government. He is a gentleman who had control over the Anchal Department for a few years. He must have felt the necessity very keenly when he was at the Head of the Department. I am sure, knowing him as I do, he must have tried his level best to remedy the evil that is now sought to be removed by this resolution and why it has been necessary for him to come here is also patent. His attempts in the line, when he was the Head of the Anchal Department, would not have borne fruit for reasons I do not know. So the resolution comes from him with special grace and I believe the Government will find its way to accept it. Some Members have brought forward other suggestions for letters reaching the remotest corners of the State by opening up new Anchal Offices, either experimental or permanent. That of course is another remedy. We are now concerned with the resolution in hand. That suggests the appointment of additional Anchalmen where such Anchalmen are absolutely necessary. I had a lot of complaints from the subscribers of a paper edited by me and that especially from the jurisdiction that is served by the Anchal Office at Trichur. The Trichur Anchal Office, I understand, serves a good number of villages, one of them as far distant as Vaniampara. Now Vaniampara is at a distance of 15 miles from Trichur. On enquiry, especially upon these complaints from my subscribers I find that the two anchalmen at Trichur serve these villages. I put in a word of complaint before the Anchal Superintendent and I am surprised to find that nothing has yet been done and therefore I recommend the resolution may be accepted by this House.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞുമൊയ്തീൻ.—സർ, എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിന്റെ പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഇപ്പോൾ സഭയുടെ ആലോചനയിലിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രമേയത്തിൽ പറയുന്ന പല ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും വിഷമങ്ങളും അനുഭവിച്ചു വരുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഞാൻ വീണ്ടും പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ചേന്നമംഗലം, പുല്ലറ, ഇടവിലങ്ങു എന്നീ വില്ലേജുകളിൽ വളരെ വൈകിയാണ് കത്തുകൾ കിട്ടിവരുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ശിപായിമാർ കൂടുതലായി ആവ

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ശ്രമുള്ളതു് ഏതെല്ലാം സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലാണെന്നു് നല്ലവണ്ണം അന്വേഷിച്ചു് ആവശ്യത്തിന്നനുസരിച്ചു് അഞ്ചൽ ശിപായിമാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതു പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ സൌകര്യപ്രദമായിരിക്കും. നഗരപിതാക്കന്മാർ നഗരങ്ങളിൽ കൂടുതൽ സൌകര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി വാദിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. അമിതസൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ഏറണാകുളത്തു വേണമൊ, തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂർ വേണമൊ എന്നു അവർ തർക്കിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ ആലോചനയേയും ശ്രദ്ധയേയും അവർ ഹഠാൽകർഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അതേ സമയത്തു് കുഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലെ ഒഴിച്ചുവയ്ക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത അത്യാവശ്യങ്ങൾ എങ്കിലും ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കാൻ മറന്നുപോകരുതെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രത്യേകം ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ പെട്ട ചേന്ദമംഗലം വില്ലേജിലുള്ള ഗോതുരുത്തു് എന്ന പ്രദേശത്തു് മുമ്പു കത്തുകൾ നടത്താൻ ഒരു അഞ്ചൽശിപായിയെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിരുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ആ നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ആവശ്യം മതിയാകാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു്-അവിടെ പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു അഞ്ചലാഫീസു് വച്ചുകിട്ടണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചു. അതനുസരിച്ചു് ഒരുഅഞ്ചലാഫീസു് വച്ചുകൊടുക്കയും ചെയ്തു. ആ ആഫീസു് സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ കത്തുകൾ നടത്താൻ ഒരു ശിപായിയെ വെച്ചിരുന്നു. അഞ്ചലാഫീസു് വച്ചുനടത്തുന്നഷ്ടംവന്നാൽ നഷ്ടം നാട്ടുകാർ വഹിച്ചുകൊള്ളാമെന്ന കരാറിന്മേലാണു് അഞ്ചലാഫീസു് സ്ഥാപിച്ചതെന്നു പറയുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ആഫീസു് വയ്ക്കുന്നതിനുമുമ്പു് അവിടെക്കു കത്തുനടത്താൻ നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ശിപായിയുടെ ശമ്പളം മുഴുവൻ നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ഉത്തരവാദത്വത്തിൽപെടുത്തണമെന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടു പറയുന്നതായി അറിയുന്നു. അതു തീർച്ചയായും വലിയ അന്യായവും ജനദ്രോഹവും ആണു്. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരും ചെന്ദമംഗലവും തമ്മിലിരിക്കുന്ന കത്തിടപാടുകളെപ്പറ്റി വിവരിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ രസാവഹമാണു്. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ നിന്നു ഒരു കത്തയച്ചാൽ അവിടെനിന്നും മൂന്നു നാലുനാഴിക അകലംമാത്രമുള്ള ചേന്ദമംഗലത്തുള്ള അഞ്ചലാഫീസിൽ മൂന്നൊ നാലൊ ദിവസം കഴിഞ്ഞാണു് കിട്ടിവരുന്നതു. ആഫീസിൽ കിട്ടുന്നതിനു് ഈ മൂന്നു നാലുദിവസത്തെ താമസം വേണ്ടിവരുന്നസ്ഥിതിക്കു് അഞ്ചൽശിപായിമാരുടെ കയ്യിൽ കിട്ടിയാൽ എത്രദിവസം കഴിഞ്ഞാണു് മേൽവിലാസക്കാർക്കു കിട്ടാനിടവരുന്നതെന്നു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ നിങ്ങൾ ഊഹിച്ചുകൊള്ളുകയായിരിക്കും ഉത്തമം. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരും ചേന്ദമംഗലവും പരസ്പരം നടത്തുന്ന കത്തുകൾ പരമാദിവസമെങ്കിലും മേൽവിലാസക്കാർക്കു കിട്ടത്തക്കവണ്ണം വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ ധർമ്മമാണു്. അതിനെ ഈ അവസരത്തിലും ഞാൻ അനുസ്മരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഗ്രാമവാസികളുടെ ഇത്തിരം ചെറിയ ആവശ്യങ്ങളെങ്കിലും ഗവൺമെണ്ടു നടത്തികൊടുക്കാൻ കാ

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ലംവൈകിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നു വിശ്വസിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് പ്രമേയത്തെഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Sir, the Anchal Department has been coming off and on for a certain amount of criticism in this Council. The question whether stamps should be manufactured here or not; the question whether anchal services cannot be entrusted to bus owners; the question whether anchal offices cannot be opened without guarantees from the local people; the question whether more additional anchalmen should not be appointed—all these points have often been raised in this House. Coming to the instance in hand, I might say at the outset that the policy of this department has always been to watch that the expenditure is always met by the revenues of the year. It is the particular policy that has been referred to by the Member for Vyttila. If new Anchal Office is to be opened, the general revenues cannot bear any loss on its account; for, the institution is intended to serve the people of the locality and in fairness therefore the loss, if any, should also be borne by them. Acting on that principle, in this case also I regret that the Government cannot, accept the resolution as it stands. Because, out of the 62 Anchal Offices that exist within the State though a good number do serve their clients within the prescribed two days, there are a few others which, for want of sufficient work, do not make arrangements for delivery within the prescribed two days. To cover such cases, if we accept the resolution, we have to appoint not less than 36 or 40 more anchalmen; and the cost on account of this additional staff will not be met by the increase in correspondence or by any other corresponding increase in the revenue on account of the additional facilities made available for the people of these places. Therefore, consistent with the policy referred to above, the Government regret they cannot accept the resolution as it stands.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—Is not the department working at a profit?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is. The accepted policy is to allow it to expand only so much as the expenditure would be met by the corresponding increase of the revenue.

Mr. V. Achyuta Menon.—I wanted simply to point out to the Government the disirability of entertaining some more additional hands. Sir, with the permission of the Council I beg to withdraw the motion.

The resolution was withdrawn with leave of the House.

Concluding remarks by the President.

President.—Before adjourning the Council, I should like to thank the Hon'ble Members of all sections for the support

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which they have given the Chair. Speaking for myself personally, that support has converted what might have been an onerous duty into a pleasant task. It has enabled the Council to get through its business with despatch and to debate various resolutions with their eloquence, force and dignity befitting this Council.

We shall now adjourn.

The House was then adjourned at 2' to 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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